

Setting Up Advisory & Who Teaches It:

In the High School Academic Policy Guide for school year 2018-19, the following language was added to clarify advisory:

- “NYSED has commencement-level learning standards in the following subject areas: English language arts; social studies; mathematics; science; technology; arts education (including visual arts, music, dance and theater); languages other than English; health, physical education, family and consumer sciences; and career development and occupational studies. Commencement-level learning standards and assessments reflect the knowledge, skills, and understandings all students are expected to know and be able to do upon receiving a high school diploma. **Courses that do not align to these high school-level standards, including elective courses, may not bear credit. There are no standards in “guidance” or “advisory”; such courses generally should not bear credit.** See the section of this guide on electives.” (pg. 11)
- “Courses that do not align to high school learning standards: Schools may not award credit for courses that do not meet NYSED commencement-level learning standards. This includes courses that meet middle school standards, or guidance courses that do not align to one of NYSED’s commencement-level learning standards.⁶⁹ For example, students may not receive credit for a course aligned to pre-algebra standards designed to prepare students for a high school algebra course. **Guidance or advisory courses generally should not bear credit. NYSED does not have commencement-level learning standards in guidance. If credit-bearing, these courses should be coded more accurately to align with the NYSED commencement-level learning standards being taught. The teacher of record’s certification must correspond with the standards and content of the course.** See the section of this guide on electives.” (pg. 38)

Schools continue to struggle with this despite the guidance provided to ensure that subject-certified teachers instruct guidance and advisory courses. The Office of Academic Policy and Systems will continue to emphasize through their policy guidance and during their in-person trainings that all credit-bearing experiences, including guidance and advisory, must align to NYSED learning standards and be taught by a teacher who is certified in that subject area.